

D1

a.comparator for receiving the output signal and comparing the output signal with at least one reference signal to generate the first control signal.

3. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 1, wherein the attenuator, the comparator, and the third circuitry are implemented by analog and/or digital circuitry.

D2

4. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 1, wherein the attenuator, the comparator, and the third circuitry are implemented by hardware digital circuitry.

D3

5. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 3, wherein the digital circuitry is represented by one or more digital signal processing algorithms and/or by one or more software routines.

D4

7. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 1, wherein the third circuitry is a Root-Mean Square extractor circuitry and the comparator is an integrating comparator.

D5

9. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein the integrating comparator includes a current sourcing/sinking comparator.

D6

10. (Amended) A circuit according to claim 7, wherein the attenuator includes a multiplying digital-to-analog converter.

D7

11. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus that receives television signals.

D8

13. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus that receives satellite signals.

D9

15. (Twice amended) A circuit according to claim 1, further comprising an apparatus that receives radio signals.

17. (Twice amended) A method for processing broadcast signals comprising the steps of:

receiving a broadcast signal and processing the broadcast signal to extract and output a first audio signal;

attenuating the first audio signal to generate a second audio signal based upon a first feedback control signal; and

one of attenuating and amplifying the second audio signal based upon a second control signal to generate a third audio signal;

wherein the step of attenuating the first audio signal includes

determining a Root Mean Square (RMS) value of the second audio signal and providing an output signal that is based upon the RMS value, and

comparing the output signal with at least one reference signal to generate the first feedback control signal.

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method is implemented in an apparatus that receives television signals.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method is implemented in an apparatus that receives satellite signals.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method is implemented in an apparatus that receives radio signals.

Please cancel claims 22 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 31, 2001, and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) submitted herewith, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1, 3-17, and 19-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15 and 19 through 21 have been amended herein. Claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.